

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSCE-00 PRS-01 EUR-10

IO-03 EB-03 RSR-01 /073 W

----- 031178

R 080121Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5656

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14277

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG
NKP THAILAND FROM BIEN HOA AUGUST 6 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE BIEN HOA 363

LIMIDS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 6 AUGUST 1973

1. WAR HEATED UP AGAIN IN MR 3 DURING 72 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800
AUGUST 6. THERE WERE 76 CLASHES REPORTED BY MR 3 G-2: 19 CLASHES
IN THE FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD, 28 IN THE SECOND, AND 29 IN THE FINAL;
66 WERE GROUND ATTACKS, 33 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ONE OVER 20 ROUNDS)
ONE COMBINED ATTACK BY FIRE AND ON THE GROUND ATTACK, EIGHT SMALL
ARMS HARASSMENTS, TWO ABDUCTIONS, ONE SAPPER INCIDENT, ONE RAIL
INTERDICTION (4 KM NE TRANG BOM, BIEN HOA PROVINCE IN WHICH AN
ENGINE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED AND 80 METERS OF TRACK DESTROYED),
ONE AIR STRIKE (IN SUPPORT OF THE 355TH RF BN IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE
7KM SW XUYEN MOC), AND 13 MINING/GRENADE INCIDENTS (TWO CIVILIAN).
GVN LOSSES WERE 16 KILLED, 67 WOUNDED (13 CIVILIAN), AND FIVE
MISSING. COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE 58 KIA (16 KBA),
TWO CAPTURED, AND A QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT LOST. INCIDENTS,
FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, BY PROVINCE WERE BINH DUONG 21, PHUOC
TUY 16, PHUOC LONG 9, SIX EACH IN LONG AN AND LONG KHANH, FIVE
EACH IN BINH LONG AND HAU NGHIA, GIA DINH 4, BIEN HOA 3, AND
ONE IN TAY NINH. FIVE VC/NVA RALLIED TO THE GVN DURING THE
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THREE DAYS, THREE IN TAY NINH AND TWO IN HAU NGHIA.

2. AT MR 3 WEEKLY BRIEFING MORNING AUGUST 6, G-3 REPORTED THAT 15 TRUCKS HAD ARRIVED SONG BE LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 4 WITH SOME 150 TONS OF RICE. MR 3 G-2 LTC BINH TOLD DAO/RLO THAT THE ORIGIN OF THIS CONVOY WAS BAN ME THUOT. WITH REGARD TO THE 100-TRUCK CONVOY WHICH WAS THOUGHT ON AUGUST 3 TO BE EN ROUTE FROM CAM RANH TO SONG BE, LTC BINH SAID IT IS STILL IN CAM RANH AWAITING TO GO SIGNAL FROM THE JGS IN SAIGON, WHILE MR 2 IS CLAIMING IT CANNOT PROVIDE SECURITY ALONG THE PLANNED CONVOY ROUTE. HOWEVER, MR 3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN MORNING AUGUST 6 THAT THIS CONVOY WOULD ARRIVE SONG BE THIS AFTERNOON.

3. MR 3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN MORNING AUGUST 6 OHAT SITUATION ALONG INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A HAS QUIETED DOWN SINCE LAST WEEK'S BATTLE WHICH OPENED 1-A BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO, BUT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE UNTIL PHU GIAO - DONG XOAI PROTION IS ALSO OPEN. 7TH REGIMENT OF 5TH DIVISION HAS NOW BECOME SPEARHEAD OF THIS PART OF OPERATION, REPLACING BATTERED 9TH.

4. MR 3 WEEKLY BRIEFING MORNING AUGUST 6 CLAIMED 151 COMMUNIST "VIOLATIONS" IN WEEK ENDING 0800 SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, COMPARED WITH 194 PREVIOUS WEEK. RVNAF LOST 36 KIA AND 121 WOUNDED COMPARED WITH 61 COMMUNISTS KIA, FIVE CAPTURED, AND EIGHT RALLIERS.

5. AT PARTY EVENING AUGUST 3 IN SAIGON, ICCS INDODEL CHIEF AMBASSADOR DHARSONO ADMITTED TO CONGEN THAT ICCS HAD NOT ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN ITS FIRST SIX MONTHS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MORE IF CANADIANS HAD BEEN LESS AGRESSIVE. THEY WERE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO RUN TO THE NEWSPAPERS AND TO ASSESS BLAME. THEY HAD ARRIVED HERE NOT UNDERSTANDING ASIANS, AND SIX MONTHS LATER THEY HAD LEFT UNDERSTANDING THEM EVEN LESS.

6. MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASES OF OFFICIAL PRICES OF GASOLINE, KEROSENE, AND SUGAR, PROVIKED IMMEDIATE REGION-WIDE REACTION, WITH MANY GAS STATIONS CLOSING AND SUGAR DISAPPEARING FROM THE MARKETS. BY MORNING AUGUST 6 MARKET HAD SETTLED DOWN A BIT; IN MOST PROVINCES SOME GAS STATIONS ARE OPEN, BUT MOST OF THESE ARE SELLING ONLY SUPER GRADE GAS,. AT 1-10\$VN OVER NEW OFFICIAL PRICE OF 105\$VN PER LITER. BEST SITUATION IS IN LONG AN, WHERE STATIONS ARE OPEN AND REGULAR IS SELLING AT 86\$VN AND SUPER AT 106\$VN PER LITER, BOTH PRIVES ONLY ONE PIASTER OVER NEW OFFICIAL RATES, AND THIRD GRADE YELLOW SUGAR BEING SOLD AT 350\$VN PER KILO, NEW OFFICIAL PRICE. PHUOC TUY PROVINCE IS WORST OFF; ALL GAS TATIONS STILL CLOSED AND NO SUGAR IS

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AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON MARKET. SITUATION IS GIA DINH NOT YET CLEAR, AND SITUATION IN PHUOC LONG IS OF COURSE SPECIAL, BUT OTHER PROVINCES FALL SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN LONG AN AND PHUOC TUY. ALTHOUGH ITS OFFICIAL PRICE HAS NOT CHANGED, RICE HAS REPORTEDLY INCREASED 1200-2000\$VN PER 100 KILO BAG.

WALKINSHAW

UNQUOTE

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730850/aaaabkyv.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR 3 SITREP - 6 AUGUST 1973
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005